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SUBJECT: RENOVATION AND UPGRADE OF NDLEA FACILITIES AT
ABUJA AIRPORT; NEW X-RAY MACHINES NEEDED

REF: Abuja 0438

1. UNCLASSIFIED - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: Renovations to NDLEA facilities at Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (NAIA), Abuja, recommended by INL LEA, have been completed. NDLEA Airport Commander and other officers now have adequate, air conditioned offices. New holding cells for both male and female suspects have been built and there is an isolated and lockable, if not completely secure, storage space for seized evidence. All work was completed with GON Aviation Ministry funds. NAIA now needs a new, digital body scanner (x-ray machine). We propose providing the machine with operator training and a spare parts package for approximately \$350K from pipeline funds. Depending on appropriate facilities, we propose installing the same machines at both Port Harcourt and Kano airports, but without the spare parts. (One package in the country should be sufficient). Total would be approximately \$850K which is available in interdiction funds. End Summary.

3. When Aviation Minister Babalola Borishade toured NDLEA facilities at NAIA at LEA's request in early April, he directed his staff and subordinate agencies to prepare a plan for renovating NDLEA facilities at the airport within a week. Upon receipt of the plan, he authorized its immediate implementation and provided Ministry funds for the work. The work, including new furniture, is now complete.

4. As indicated in refTel, the x-ray machine currently at NAIA is over 15 years old and was transferred from Lagos when we provided a new machine for that airport. It is currently inoperable. Now that the GON has provided a suitable air conditioned facility, we propose providing a new state of the art digital machine - a COMPASS Body Scanner manufactured by OD Security in The Netherlands. We also propose providing NDLEA a large safe to secure evidence.

5. After considerable research, we have determined that no comparable American machine exists. Those produced by AS&E and Rapiscan are excellent for detecting contraband and/or explosives ON the body but not internally. As best as we can determine, the COMPASS Body Scanner is the only one of its type in the world which can detect swallowed narcotics and internal possession, similar to x-ray machines used in medical applications. Unlike most medical machines, it does not require any removal of clothing nor does it require the subject to lie down (as is now required in both Abuja and Lagos). With COMPASS, the subject simply stands on a platform which then moves past the viewer. (See [www.COMPASS.INFO](#)). In addition, the company is represented in Abuja, thereby simplifying required maintenance. The company has provided security and security-related hardware to the GON military and police forces for some 30 years and has an excellent reputation here. They also represent AS&E and would be delighted to sell us an American machine if one existed.

6. COMMENT: The Aviation Minister's quick, decisive action exemplifies what the GON can do on its own when it has the will. The new machine for NAIA is an absolute necessity to provide quick examination of anyone suspected of internal possession and will become even more important when direct flights begin from Abuja to the U.S., which we suspect is only a matter of time.

7. There currently is no detection equipment at Port Harcourt airport. Although Port Harcourt has eclipsed Kano in terms of international flights to Europe, there are still many flights between Kano and the Middle East which are used by drug couriers. Both airports are in dire need of support and NDLEA Chairman Giade personally asked LEA to see what assistance could be provided in Kano. LEA will inspect Kano Airport next week. However, if only one airport can be supported at this time, it must be Abuja. Our second priority would be Port Harcourt, which services the American oil community and has no detection equipment at all. FUREY